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Dear Dr. Killian:

Thank you for your letter of 16 May. I welcome your thoughtful suggestions on the difficult policy and security problems we face in fulfilling the various international commitments we have assumed or are negotiating in the field of outer space. I have directed the issuance of a National Security Action Memorandum calling on the Department of State, Department of Defense, and CIA to re-examine and give me recommendations with respect to a national policy for the handling of our reconnaissance satellite program.

The other points you have raised have been examined and I am satisfied that they have been dealt with satisfactorily. Specifically, the Department of State has assured me that the key negotiating officials at the UN and elsewhere have been fully cleared and briefed on our satellite reconnaissance program. Steps have also been taken to establish a special clearance for use in the future for those officials who cannot meet the strict need-to-know criteria for any of the existing clearances but who require some general orientation as to our program.

The position papers for the forthcoming Geneva meetings  
on outer

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on outer space have been fully coordinated and cleared by the appropriate agencies. They have been carefully designed to protect to a maximum degree our national security interests both for the present and future. I am confident they fully serve this purpose.

I am looking forward to our meeting on 26 June and the opportunity it offers to discuss these matters further.

John F. Kennedy

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